UCAPAWA News

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF

Vol. IV, No. 10 — May 15, 1944 — 68

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# UCAPAWA Wins Cal. Dehydration Election

*By Luisa Moreno, International Vice-President*

**Fullerton, Calif.—The win-the-war program of the CIO proved victorious at the NLRB election held at the Santa Ana dehydrating plant of Huston & Baetz on April 28, when UCAPAWA polled a large majority of the votes. The results were 65 for UCAPAWA; 25 for the AFL Teamsters Union; and 12 for neither union. Total list of eligible voters rose to 142. This election marked a victory in the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee's successful drive in this rich citrus and vegetable packing area.**

UCAPAWA began organizing the Huston & Baetz cabbage dehydrating plant late in December. A petition for an election was filed almost immediately, but since the Company refused to consent, the NLRB held a hearing early in March, and the election was ordered April 13.

### REAL PLUGGING

It was "lucky 13" for UCAPAWA, for although the AFL Teamsters carried on an active campaign and had an earlier start, UCAPAWA won by a substantial majority. The "luck" was based on some real plugging by UCAPAWA's Citrus Workers Organizing Committee and a con-

### FIRST CIO DANCE

Prior to the election our Union sponsored a most successful first CIO dance in Santa Ana. Proceeds of $34.62 were donated to the local American Red Cross chapter by the dance committee, headed by Brother A. C. Garcia and Sisters Mary Garcia and Margie Leon.

When NLRB certification comes, the Union will be prepared to open negotiations immediately. Committee members elected to negotiate with management include: Matilda Miller, A. C. Garcia and R. Wiggins. Stewards elected for the graveyard shift are Noliece E. Gaines and Frances Gomez.

## ON EVE OF INVASION CIO SENDS A MESSAGE to EISENHOWER

"More than five million CIO members and their families join with all other Americans in heartfelt hope for overwhelming success in the coming attack by American and British forces on Fortress Europe.

"We trust that you and your men will find that the weapons hammered out by American workers are proving equal to your difficult task, and superior to those in the hands of the enemy.

"We pledge that the all-out production record which has made these American weapons possible will be continued wholeheartedly in complete support of the invasion and the mighty battles that will follow it until the Nazis are completely crushed."

*Philip Murray*

Philip Murray, President C.I.O.

# Amer. Tobacco Victory Spurs Philly Campaign

**Philadelphia, Pa.**—Organization of 10,000 tobacco workers here took a long stride forward when American Tobacco workers voted by 363 to 282 for UCAPAWA in a National Labor Relations Board election on April 27. This plant of some 770 workers is the first to march into the CIO column in the current tobacco drive here. Frieder Cigar workers, the pioneers in UCAPAWA in this cigar making center, went CIO back in 1941. Two shops across the river — Camden, N. J., — Siegel Cigar and Consolidated Cigar, — are also under UCAPAWA contract.

Indicating the wide implications of this election for the Philadelphia tobacco industry, Sec'y-Treas. Harold J. Lane said: "This smashing victory of the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee is a concrete indication of the sentiments of all cigar and tobacco workers in the Philadelphia area who have been largely unorganized.

### EYES ON AMERICAN

"Employees of Bayuk, Penn State, Consolidated, Grobalski, Stefano Bros. and Bold have been watching this election with much interest." Lane promised redoubled

*(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)*

## Poll Tax Fight Is On!

Philadelphia, Pa. — Calling upon the entire Union to act quickly to stop the Senate's filibuster against the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, Pres. Donald Henderson wired all UCAPAWA Vice-Presidents, Representatives and Organizers on Wednesday, May 10:

FIGHT ON POLL TAX BILL HAS FINALLY REACHED A DECISIVE STAGE. FILIBUSTER IS NOW TAKING PLACE IN SENATE. ON SATURDAY OR MONDAY A CLOTURE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN. IF TWO-THIRDS VOTE IS ATTAINED BILL WILL THEN UNDOUBTEDLY BE PASSED.

*(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)*

## UCAPAWA Gives $5000 For CIO Political Action

**Philadelphia, Pa.** — Acknowledging receipt of the first installment of UCAPAWA's $5,000 contribution to the CIO Political Action Committee, Sidney Hillman, PAC Chairman, expressed the Committee's appreciation for our Union's support.

"This is a real and tangible evidence of the widespread interest in effective political action on the part of the CIO affiliates and their members," wrote Hillman.

### WE CANNOT FAIL

"The job which the Committee faces is both important and difficult," Hillman continued. "But I am sure with this splendid support, which comes from organisations like your own, we cannot fail."

UCAPAWA's contribution of $5,000 was the unanimous recommendation of our Executive Board at its regular meeting last November.

## UCAPAWA MAKES A HIT AT AMERICAN TOBACCO

Philadelphia, Pa.—A part of the pre-election rally at the plant gates of the American Tobacco Co., two days before the workers gave UCAPAWA a resounding vote of confidence. At far left, Exec. Vice-Pres. Conrad Espe and Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold Lane hold up their CIO banners. Int. Rep. Carmen Parente (center, foreground) has his back to camera.

# FACING OUR PROBLEMS

By DONALD HENDERSON,
General President

## PROPERTY RIGHTS VERSUS HUMAN RIGHTS

CONGRESS is today considering legislation on reconversion of our war economy to a peacetime basis. Instead of adopting a program that will look after human needs as well as property needs, it is threatening to safeguard only the interests of property.

Congress is like the penny-pinching farmer who builds a good barn for his horses, keeps them well fed, but starves his workers to death and kicks them around without adequate food, clothing or shelter.

Today the entire labor movement is shocked at the action taken by the Senate of the United States, in passing the Murray-George Bill, whose purpose is to settle the financial claims of war contractors and safeguard property owners against losses due to contract termination.

### How About Labor?

HOWEVER, the Kilgore Bill, whose purpose is to take care of the human problems of demobilizaton, is shoved aside and no action taken on it.

Emergency unemployment compensation for demobilized workers and ex-servicemen is more important, if anything, than protection to business enterprise against the losses of contract termination. Security for workers losing their jobs and plans for efficient transfer to new jobs is certainly just as important for Congress to provide as the security of property and management in the conversion period.

Never before has industry piled up such huge reserves and hidden profits to make them secure during the transition period, and never before will workers face the necessity for so widespread a shift to other and uncertain jobs.

Yet we are faced with the spectacle of Congress acting only upon a bill (Murray-George Bill) to protect business interests and failing to act upon a bill (Kilgore Bill) which would provide a well-rounded program to aid the workers and returning ex-servicemen.

### CIO, AFL and R.R.'s United

LABOR is united in demanding action on the Kilgore Bill. A joint letter from the Congress of Industrial Organizations, American Federation of Labor and the Railway Labor Executives Association, has been sent out by a united labor movement protesting the above Congressional action and demanding action on the Kilgore Bill.

1. There must be no piece-meal legislation such as contract termination legislation alone. An integrated program of reconversion offers the only means of preventing the chaos that may overwhelm us on the production front in a short time.

2. We stand fully behind the principles of the Kilgore Bill (S 1823). We urge that the Murray-George Bill (S 1718) be amended to include the Kilgore Bill, thus providing a well-rounded program.

3. Such a program must include, in line with War Mobilization Director Byrnes' proposal, special unemployment compensation benefits in the transition period to take care of unemployed workers as well as discharged servicemen.

4. An orderly program of reconversion to civilian production is necessary to achieve maximum production and employment during the reconversion period. Establish an Office of War Mobilization and Adjustment to coordinate all Federal activities during the reconversion period.

5. We favor creation of a National Production-Employment Board, consisting of representatives of industry, labor, agriculture and the general public, to form an integral part of the Office of War Mobilization and Adjustment.

6. Establish a Bureau of Programs to review and develop government programs dealing with reconversion and production, and to encourage the development of private and local programs for increased production and unemployment.

7. Provide adequate protection for, and incentives to, small business in reconverting to peace.

We must mobilize our membership and start this battle now to force Congress to act on the Kilgore Bill along with the Murray-George Bill. All of our locals, officers and members should thoroughly discuss the problems and the program outlined in this column, adopt resolutions and send wires to their Congressmen and Senators. Special resolutions and wires should be sent to Senators Harry M. Kilgore, Walter F. George, Harry S. Truman and James E. Murray.

## HE THINKS HE'S GOT TROUBLE NOW!

FROM WASHINGTON

## Elbow Grease Can Change Congress

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

*Washington, May 10*

THE first test in the 1944 election campaign was passed last week with results that are making the reactionaries shiver while fence sitting Congressmen put on their best pro-labor faces and ask hopefully of legislative representatives, "What is your membership in my district?"

The signs are so clear that there is no argument about interpretation of the victories stacked up by Senators Pepper and Hill and the defeat of Dies' henchman, Rep. Starnes of Alabama. (See story on page 7.)

Everyone knows that Pepper and Hill won on a program of support to the President. But while many reactionaries more or less accepted the fact that these men might win, the defeat of Starnes has caused real consternation on Capitol Hill, because it was not expected, and because it showed that the people could not only keep good men in but dump bad ones when they got out and did the leg work and kept their eyes on the ball in Congressional elections. One Congressman after another has said to me: "The war workers in Starnes' District turned the trick," and then spoke with a new and healthy respect of the influence of the CIO Political Action Committee.

### PAC Fights For People

Of course this influence goes far beyond the CIO and even the whole labor movement, although the CIO's first job is to get its own membership registered to vote for men who stand on their records as well as their promises. The Political Action Committee serves as a mobilization point for all the forces, the majority of the people in the country, who support the President's program and have had enough of the antics of the present Congress which is sabotaging it.

### South On The Move

The fact that these victories took place in the South may come as a surprise to those who think the people in this section of the country as hopelessly oppressed by poll tax reaction, but it merely proves that it is possible to win in the face of the very greatest obstacles and that the South is on the move. The ferment among the people of the South and their intelligent determination to make the Supreme Court decision banning white primaries stick, in the face of an opposition bent on inciting to riot, is an inspiration to the rest of the country.

The job now is to translate the possibility of success into victory in every Congressional election. If we succeed in reelecting President Roosevelt but fail to change radically the makeup of Congress, we will simply be marking time, which isn't victory in a battle or in an election campaign. Holding our own means at best a repeat performance of the struggle to sabotage which has gone on in the present Congress. We don't want any encores on that act and the only way to avoid them is to put in the elbow grease required to get a new cast of Congressmen.

## Turn The Heat On Congress!

### GI Bill (S 1767)

Rankin's Committee cut unemployment compensation for veterans from a maximum of $25 to $20, and from 52 to 26 weeks.

ACTION: Wire your Congressmen to support restoration of the bill as passed by the Senate.

### Kilgore Bill (S 1823)

Provides for protection of workers during transition from war to peace, as well as protection of property. (See "Facing Our Problems" on this page.)

ACTION: Wire your Senators and Congressmen to act on the Kilgore Bill.

### Frey Amendment To NLRB Appropriation

Hamstrings the Wagner Act. Protects company unions against any attempt by a bona fide union to organize.

ACTION: Wire your Senators and Congressmen opposing any such riders to the NLRB appropriation.

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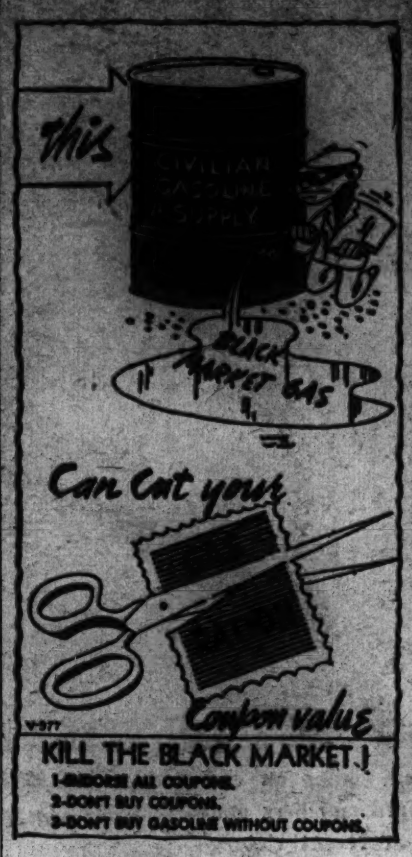
COTTON SEED OIL AND COMPRESS DIVISION

# Recruit a Worker and Win a Bond

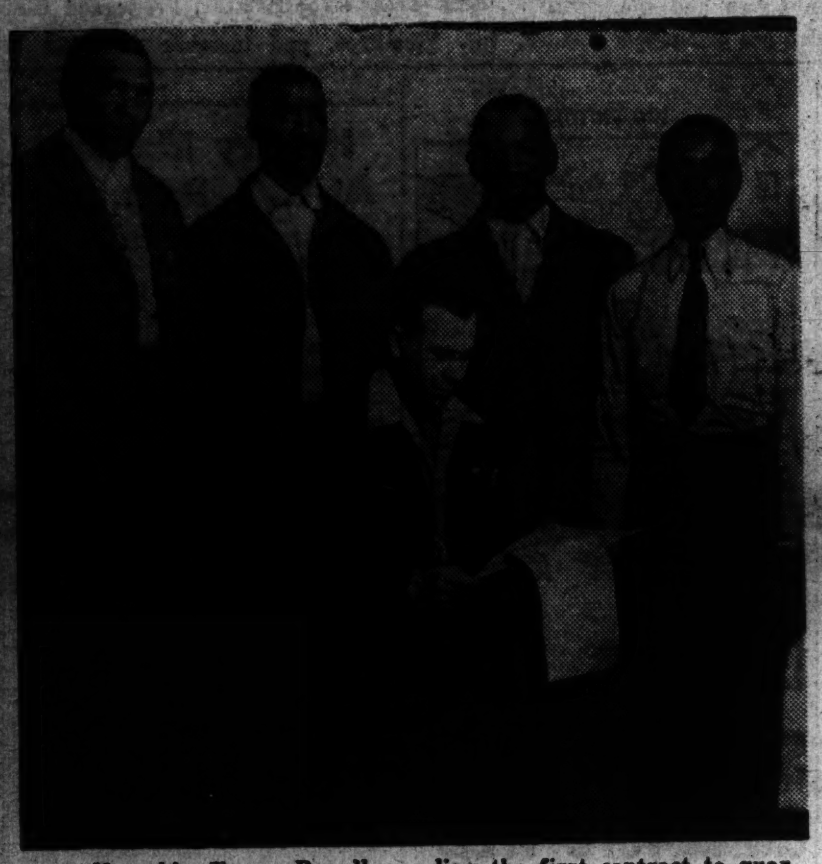
Memphis, Tenn.—Local 19 has found a new and patriotic way to solve the manpower shortage at the Buckeye Cotton Oil plant here:

In an agreement signed with the management recently, the Company agreed to pay for a $25 War Bond as a prize to anyone in the plant who brings in another worker, if the latter works there ninety days.

The Union and the Company have also agreed to put the Buckeye Hollywood plant on a 40-hour week from May 3 to July 27, since most of the plant will be changed from cottonseed to soyabean operations for that period. Soyabean operations come under the 40-hour week by law, but the War Labor Board is being requested to allow the same hours for the Fibre Department, where cottonseed operations will continue during this period.




## FIRST VACATIONS WON IN COMPRESSES



Memphis, Tenn.—Proudly reading the first contract to guarantee a week's vacation for any cotton compress workers in the Mississippi Delta, is Business Agent Reuel Stanfield (seated) who helped Local 19 to negotiate the agreement with Tri-State Compress here. The Negotiating Committee (above—standing, left to right) is: Charles Wright, George Swenger, Clarence Winifield and Lucius Farmer.

The new contract has also secured a 5c per hour general increase, plus a 7½c per hour increase for five new job classifications; time-and-a-half for Sundays and for six holidays, if worked. The union shop and check-off, which had already been won in the previous contract at Tri-State, were retained.

DRIED FRUIT AND NUT DIVISION

# Walnut Plant Workers Shell Out For Red Cross

Los Angeles, Calif.—For the third consecutive year, workers at California Walnut Growers here worked a day for Red Cross, turning in the entire day's earnings to the 1944 Red Cross fund. With management contributing 50 cents for every $1 turned in by the workers, the 1944 contribution totalled $3,191.38.

Walnut workers began their annual "shell out" for the Red Cross in 1942. The idea was started by Local 3 President O. H. Johnston who on Jan. 7, 1942, made the proposal to Management in a handwritten note which the Local proudly keeps as an historic document. All the men on the night shift signed on the back of the paper, to back up Bro. Johnston's proposal, including H. Starks, Felix Stamm and Joe Anderson, who is now in the Armed Forces. With the plant operating shorthanded—only about 60 percent of the workers in the previous years—the total contribution was somewhat under that of 1943 and 1942. But, says Fin. Secy. Marie Wells, the per capita contribution was higher since wage rates have gone up so people now earn more.

With sorrow, Sister Wells reports one weakness was in this year's drive, which marred an otherwise excellent performance. Management failed to fully enthuse all supervisory people to take part, with unfortunate results. Four foreladies, for example, refused to sign up and their attitude, in turn, influenced a number of new workers who did not yet have the determined CIO spirit that "no matter what others may do, we workers rally behind our war job, to see that it is done."

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

# Melon Shed Workers Win Back Pay For Overtime

El Centro, Calif.—About $75,000 in back pay will be distributed among some 600 members of Local 78 here and in Salinas, as a result of a significant decision handed down by the Regional War Labor Board recently.

In a ruling on overtime pay in the Imperial Valley and Yuma melon sheds, the Board unanimously reversed a panel recommendation and granted time-and-a-half rates for overtime put in after 8 hours of work or after 6 p.m.

The award is retroactive to May 5, 1943, and will mean about $75,000 for some 600 workers, according to Regional Director Dixie Tiller.

HIGHEST PAY

Local 78 has now won for its members the best rates of pay in the fruit and vegetable packing sheds, which were notorious for their low-pay practices before UCAPAWA organized the industry. Hourly rates now range from 80c to $1.50, depending upon the type of work.

All 220 contracts held by Local 78 with Arizona and California shippers now have overtime clauses. Only in the Santa Maria district where packing workers don't have CIO union representation (Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo) straight time rates for overtime still exist.

## War Benefits Gained In New Libby Contract

Morrison, Ill.—A record in wartime speed and benefits to workers was achieved by Local 52 in its new contract with the Libby, McNeill & Libby milk canning plant here.

Their first contract not due to expire until Aug. 1, the Local nevertheless signed a second contract with the management on April 14, since all demands were agreed upon and few changes had to be made. The result—a satisfactory contract and a joint request by the Union and the Company for WLB approval of a 7½c per hour increase, retroactive to April 6, and time-and-a-half after 44 hours per week. (This is a big step forward for milk cannery workers who, under the Wage-Hour Act, are not required to be paid at the rate of time-and-a-half after 40 hours, as are workers in most other industries.)

WAR PROVISIONS

Special war provisions in Local 52's new agreement include a seniority guarantee for employees who join the Armed Forces; military severance pay (for those who have been employed for a year or more) of two weeks' pay and vacation pay; and compensation for employees who are called for defense service by the State Reserve Militia or the Home Defense Corps.

In addition, the new contract provides for check-off of Union dues; compulsory arbitration; and a night-shift bonus.

The agreement was signed by Ronald L. Smith, Local 52 Pres.; Shirley Dykema, Fin. and Rec. Secy.; and Clarence R. Huisinkneld.

## To Negotiate Soon With Kuner-Empson

*By Helen Hoff, Press Agent*

Longmont, Colo.—Local 113 will begin negotiations soon for our next contract with Kuner-Empson. Our Negotiating Committee consist of Alice Smith, Carolyn Jackson, Glen Mathews and Art Skow.

A $50 contribution was made by the Local to the Red Cross recently.

## ELECTION VICTORY

### Texas Local Wins Citrus Shed

Edinburg, Tex.—Continuing to harvest good results in the packing sheds of the Rio Grande Valley, Local 35 was again victorious in an NLRB election held recently at the Edinburg Citrus Association. In face of Company discrimination and discharges, the employees voted 38 to 36 in favor of UCAPAWA.

The victory was credited in full to the capable organizing work of Int. Org. Stella Solis and Shop Steward Marie Meliza by Int. Vice-Pres. Otis Nation.

# Union Conditions Spur Output of Tomato Pack

*By Jeanne Douglas, Press Agent*

Edinburg, Tex.—The largest individually-owned tomato packing shed in the world—Trulyn Shippers—today is being manned by CIO workers, less than five months after Int. Vice-Pres. Otis G. Nation came to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and organized the Texas Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local 35.

Turning out three car-loads of tomatoes per hour, the shed has an agreement with the Local providing for Union conditions. With over 90 per cent of the packers belonging to the Union, the plant employs up to a thousand workers during the peak of the season.

"We are well pleased. The Union workers are doing a very nice job," said Mrs. T. E. Stephens, superintendent of operations and wife of the owner.

MORE EFFICIENCY

Efficiency of the plant increases three-fold with Union workers. With inexperienced, non-union help, 15 cars a day can be turned out. But when experienced, Union packers are employed, 45 to 50 cars of tomatoes roll northward daily to feed war-busy Americans and Canadians.

The speed with which tomatoes can be shipped hinges upon the speed with which the individual packer can fill a lug, or box, rather than upon the efficiency of the graders or the floor help. An inexperienced packer can fill only eight to ten lugs and hour, while an experienced packer averages 30 lugs an hour.

"It costs us at least $150 in lost labor to hire an inexperienced packer, Mrs. Stephens said.

UNION GROWING

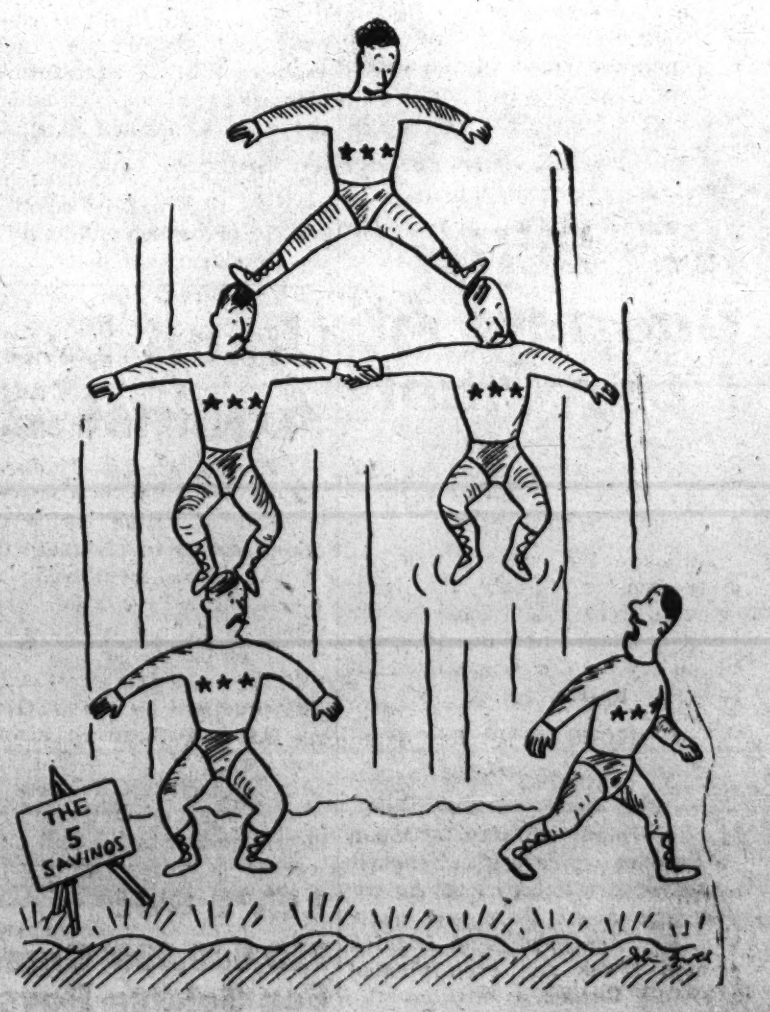
Trulyn Shippers is one of nine Valley sheds having agreements with Local 35.

Steadily expanding, the union last week won an election at the Edinburg Citrus Association. And elections will be held in at least four more sheds before May 10.

## Nuts To Pegler

Editor P. S. Mowrer, in kicking Westbrook Pegler's column out of the Chicago Daily News, said Pegler had "developed antipathies of such violence that he has allowed his feelings to overcome his reasoning powers."

Just another way of saying, you're nuts, Peg!




"I FORGOT TO REGISTER, FELLOWS."

FISH CANNING AND SEAFOOD DIVISION

# Alaska Council Plans Publicity And Activities

**Ketchikan, Alaska**—A plan of action for the locals which will lay the basis for an effective organizing drive, was worked out by the Southeastern Alaska Cannery Workers' Council. The plan includes wider Union publicity; activities which will make the Alaska locals a part of the community life; and a persistent fight against discrimination.

All four UCAPAWA locals in Southeastern Alaska have now affiliated to the Council and are contributing financially in the joint campaign worked out with the International. All locals have adopted the Council's Constitution and the budget worked out for the six months' period.

### CONCRETE PLANS

Concrete organizational plans have been worked out for the Ketchikan and Juneau areas, according to Int. Rep. Rose Dellama, who is leading the drive. Marguerite Hansen, President of the Council has been assigned to work as organizer in the Ketchikan area, while Sister Dellama will operate in Juneau.

### TRAVELING PROBLEMS

Conducting an organizing campaign in Alaska has a number of unique and interesting problems, major one of which is transportation. Southeastern Alaska has no highways, railroads or other common methods of transportation.

All transportation is by boat or plane; ship sailings to small cannery points being very infrequent; and plane transportation depending on the weather and being expensive. This lack of transportation, which hinders mail schedules and other communications, has been one of the major factors in retarding the organization of cannery workers in Alaska.

### CIO ENDORSEMENT

In launching the campaign, the first step taken was to inform the rest of the CIO in Alaska of our program. Both the Ketchikan and Juneau CIO Councils have endorsed and are supporting the program of UCAPAWA.

The memberships of the Alaska locals have evidenced interest and a cooperative spirit in the drive, according to Sister Dellama, which is expected to bear good results in organization.

## A Hitch On A Boat and a Jeep

**Petersburg, Alaska** — Speaking of transportation difficulties in Alaska, Int. Rep. Rose Dellama tells this interesting tale of how she managed to get here from Ketchikan:

There being no other transportation available, Sister Dellama got a "hitch" on a fishing boat going to Kodiak. She was dropped off in Petersburg at 2:30 a. m. By good fortune, a Coast Guardsman came to her rescue and gave her a ride in his jeep to the hotel.

With such cooperation, the Alaska organizing drive is bound to succeed!

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD IN FISH CANNERY PAY

San Diego, Calif.—The satisfied smiles on the faces of the Local 64 executive board members and Shop Stewards (above) reflect their recent victory in securing wage increase of 5c to 15c per hour, by approval of the War Labor Board, at the Van Camp Sea Food Co.

These recently awarded increases maintain the historical differential between Van Camp and the other fish canneries in the area which are organized under the AFL. Van Camp has always been the highest paid of any fish cannery in the area and in the world.

Discussing the Board decision are: (standing) Joe Martinez, Angelita Zatarian Gonzales, Rose Castro, Ella Hasley and John Froelich; (seated) Robert Galvan, Secy.-Treas.; Joe Salazar, Pres.; and Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-Pres. and member of Local 64.

# Fish Locals Endorse United Labor Slate

*By Rose Dellama, International Representative*

**Alaska**—Elections in the Territory of Alaska this year present the working people with a real opportunity to elect men who will represent them in the Territorial Legislature and Senate. Due to a law passed recently, the size of the Legislature is almost doubled; and for the first time a large number of men who are members of organized labor are running for the office of Divisional Representative.

### CIO-AFL-ANB UNITY

Members of the CIO—from the Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union, the Alaska Fishermen's Union and the Alaska Trollers' Union—as well as a member of the AFL and members of the Alaska Native Brotherhood are running, and the CIO in Alaska has united behind a slate which includes CIO, AFL, and Native Brotherhood members.

The UCAPAWA locals have endorsed this slate, and are making an attempt to see that not only does the membership turn out to vote, but information regarding the candidates is brought to all the small cannery villages.

## Dances Planned For Canneries

**Juneau, Alaska** — Every year workers in the canneries give dances. Last year, at Hawk Inlet Cannery, the girls on the filling machine decided they wanted to have a dance. They made themselves gingham evening gowns, there was much enthusiasm, and the dance was a marvelous success.

In view of last year's experience, Local 269 has adopted the idea of having a dance in all its canneries to raise funds for the organizing campaign. In the near future it is planned to set up a Committee of the girls who were so successful in last year's dance, to see to it that dances are organized in each cannery that will be equally successful, and which will help finance the organizational drive.

## Salmon Issues Go Before WLB

**Seattle, Wash.** — A 30 percent bonus over and above the 1943 wage scale for workers who will man the fish canneries in Alaska this summer is one of the demands of Local 7 now before the War Labor Board.

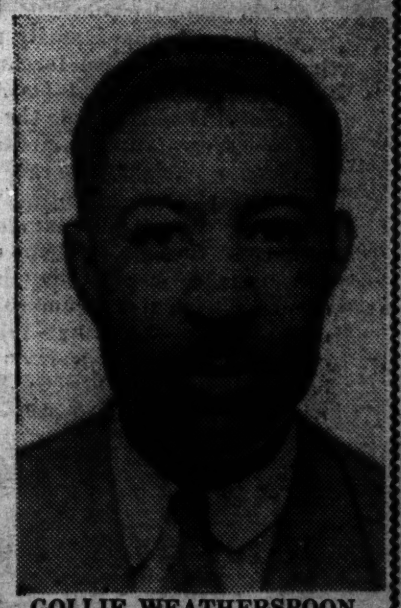
The final demands for inclusion in the 1944 contract with the Alaska Salmon Industry, which were certified to the WLB on April 19, also include:

- The same minimum seasonal guarantee to be paid Alaska resident workers, employed on a seasonal basis, as is paid outside cannery workers;
- Additional bonus to compensate for increased production;
- Paid transportation or equal cash for workers who voluntarily quit employment in Alaska, after having worked a full season;
- Foreman to be paid additional wages if their season of work last longer than one week after the length of the fishing season (as prescribed by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries);
- Union delegates and foremen to be paid first class fare to Alaska;
- All members to be paid room and board from the time of being dispatched at Seattle until embarkation for cannery;
- Contract amended to include all painting as Miscellaneous Work;
- Payment of overtime rate for 4th of July;
- Extra pay for culinary workers to compensate for shortage of manpower.

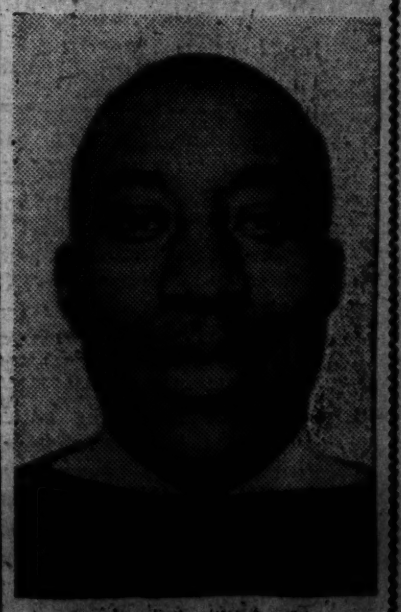
## History Makers At R. J. Reynolds

**Winston - Salem, N. C.** — The UCAPAWA member and Steward who settled the first grievance under the R. J. Reynolds contract here will hold an important place in UCAPAWA history. Int. Rep. Bill De Berry tells the story:

The worker was Orvelle Crowder and his boss fired him because he wouldn't work like a horse. Bro. Crowder feeds arencos on the cigarette floor of No. 12, which is a tough job. It takes a very good man and a very tall man. So the boss gets hot and fires him. Bro. Weatherspoon, the Steward in that department, gets busy and Bro. Crowder goes back to work. So, say Bros. Crowder and Weatherspoon: "CIO is the best thing we ever had at Reynolds."



GOLLIE WEATHERSPOON



ORVELLE CROWDER

# Win Better Quarters At Libby Plant

**Juneau, Alaska**—Local 269 has dispatched cannery workers to the Libby, McNeill & Libby cannery at Taku for several years.

Although the cannery was one of the most up-to-date, the living quarters were not. Each year the Local demanded new quarters, until last year the Company built two-year apartments.

### IMPROVEMENTS

Each apartment has painted floors and walls, running water, lights — night and day — and a garbage can to every two apartments. The members were so enthusiastic about their new quarters, that the boys from Local 7 planted lawns and even planted a Victory Garden.

Much of the credit for the improved living quarters must go to Ruth Hayes, Business Agent of Local 269, for her persistent fight to obtain them.

# Union Launches Fight Against Discrimination

**Juneau, Alaska**—The problem of discrimination against the native Alaska population is a very serious one. Our locals, which have large numbers of native members, have recognized this problem and are taking action to eliminate discrimination from Alaska life.

At its last membership meeting, Local 269 discussed the situation which exists in Juneau, where natives are not allowed to speak to members of the armed forces. It was brought out that in many instances native boys in the armed forces have been prevented from walking down the street with or speaking to old friends. Discrimination practised by the USO was also discussed.

After a thorough airing of the problem, the Local elected a Committee of Two — Martha Jacobs and Mamie Bacon, who together with Ruth Hayes, Business Agent, and Rose Dellama, Int. Rep., will contact other CIO Unions and work out a policy in protesting this discrimination to the military authorities and USO.

## LET'S GO!

## 750,000,000 Cigars For Soldier Boys

Some 750,000,000 cigars for men in the Armed Forces will be put aside by manufacturers for the remainder of 1944, according to the War Dept.

## How To Get Dope On Learners

New regulations on permits for learners in the cigar industry were issued by the U.S. Wage and Hour Division April 19. Copies of the order may be obtained from the International Office.

# Penn State Tells Senators To KO Poll Tax

**Philadelphia, Pa.** — UCAPAWA members at Penn State Cigar Co. at an organizational meeting on May 8 in preparation for a National Labor Relations Board election, threw their weight behind passage of the Anti-Poll Tax bill, scheduled to come up in the Senate May 9.

The Pennsylvania Senators were informed of the action in telegrams from Int. Vice-Pres. Lewis Bentzley. "CIO meeting of Penn State cigar workers yesterday voted you their support in wiping out the undemocratic Poll Tax once and for all," Bentzley wired Senator Joseph Guffey. "Urge you fight against filibuster and see to it that Anti-Poll Tax bill comes to a vote."

### EYES ON DAVIS

The telegram to Senator James Davis said in part: "The CIO meeting (of Penn State workers) voted to let you know we are watching Senate action and expect you to truly represent the people by working against filibuster and voting for the Anti-Poll Tax bill."

The Union has applied for an NLRB election, but the exact date of the vote has not been set. Harry Tabakin, Pres. of the Company, has agreed to the election, making formal hearings to get an order unnecessary.

### WANT SAY-SO IN WAGES

Field Rep. John Tomlin encouraged the workers in their efforts to win a Union through which to have a voice in the wages and working conditions, by telling them of the struggles of tobacco workers in Winston-Salem, N. C.—and benefits which the Union is beginning to bring in the big shops there.

Members chosen to head the CIO Organizing Committee in the plant are: from the night shift, Evelyn Fulton, Linda Truitt, Jennie Pope and Marie Mahler; and from the day shift, Marion Cornegay, Alberta Simpson and Goldie Robinson. Others will be added later.

## ANOTHER SIGNER FOR UCAPAWA . . .

## . . . AND STILL ANOTHER . . .

# Amer. Tobacco

*(Continued from Page 1)*

efforts to assist all these tobacco workers in winning their Union rights.

Among the demands for which UCAPAWA will bargain in negotiating a contract at American Tobacco are: higher wages; elimination of no-pay cigars; added vacation benefits; time and one-half after 8 hours a day as well as after 40 hours a week; and job security without discrimination because of race, color or creed.

A lively corps of leading Union members from the organized cigar plants in the area played a large part in organizing American Tobacco workers. Antoinette Sharp, Anna Magee, Cora Green, Anna Layton, Pauline Mickle, Florence Levin from Camden, and Mary Montanaro, Viola Dabney and Georgiana Brown from Freider, were out at the gates several times signing up members. Others from the International who assisted in the drive are Int. Vice-Pres. Lewis Bentzley, Int. Rep. Paul Gardner, Field Rep. John Tomlin, Int. Rep. Carmen Parente, and Brother Lane.

# Export "Re-Classified" By CIO, From 4-F To 1-A

*By Ruth Floyd, Press Agent*

**Winston-Salem, N. C.**—The Export Leaf Tobacco Co. has been re-classified from 4-F to 1-A, says Robert Latham, Chairman of the Joint Shop Steward Council of the three leaf houses here.

Before we signed our CIO contract, we were working in a 4-F plant. Our minimum wage rate was low. Facilities were bad, only half-enough drinking water and half-enough heat. Working conditions were bad. Women who were getting paid for only 10 hours were spending 13 hours on their jobs, sometimes changing shifts two or three times a day. Men worked 16 and 17 hours per day with no rest period.

### CIO CAME ALONG

But a great change has been made. On Sept. 23, 1943, Doctor CIO came along and re-classified our plant, and now it is 1-A.

The Company recognizes the Shop Stewards and a union shop. Our minimum wage has gone up 10c per hour. All employees shall become and remain members in good standing within 15 days from the date of hiring, with a check-off and seniority rights.

More vacations have been won—one week for employees who are with the Company 26 weeks, and two weeks vacation for 35 weeks employment in a current year. Military severance pay and reporting time with pay are also in our contract.

These are only a few things we now have that we didn't have in our 4-F plant, and changes are still being made.

TOBACCO DIVISION

# Trouble-Making Bosses Stymied At Am. Tobacco

**Philadelphia, Pa.** — Anger at anti-union activities by foremen at the American Tobacco cigar plant here was heading into strike action by the workers when UCAPAWA took action on May 8 to settle the grievances peacefully through government machinery. In leaflets handed out at the gates early in the morning, the workers, who less than two weeks ago voted UCAPAWA in an NLRB election, were advised to stay on the job.

"Regardless of the jeers and taunts of some of the Company's foremen, regardless of the Company's attempt to provoke work stoppages, stay on your job," said the leaflet. "Hold your head high. Feel proud you are an American backing the war effort 100%. The CIO is taking your case to the government for settlement."

Later in the day, charges of unfair labor practice were entered by the Union with the NLRB, according to Int. Rep. Paul Gardner. The basis of the charges is the activity of a number of Company foremen who taunted CIO Shop Stewards and members, both colored and white, for wearing their Union buttons, and who made anti-union remarks to those not already in the Union.

### UNPATRIOTIC COMPANY

"Such activity," said Gardner, "is not only illegal, but is deeply unpatriotic. The cigar industry has guaranteed to put aside 750,000,000 for the Armed Forces during the rest of 1944, and yet we find American Tobacco foremen acting like this. Bosses who for their own partisan, anti-union ends stir up trouble, are in effect stabbing the soldiers in the back. We must have national unity and settle our differences without interrupting production. CIO is bending all its efforts toward that end."

## Notes from Locals

### Send-Off Dinner

**72** Findlay, Ohio — Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Local 72 here is sorry to lose a fellow member, Arthur Tarr, who has accepted a position at the Ohio Oil Co. Art has been a mechanic in the machine room for 23 years. The day force presented him with a Masonic Chapter stone and chain and the night force had a dinner and gave him a leather bill fold.

Art was a good Union member, assisting in every way with our Local. He served as Vice-President for the first year and one-half and is now acting as Steward for the mechanics.

*By Arthelma Willson, Press Agent*

### Webster's in Fine Trim

**281** Detroit, Mich. — Martha Drapinski has been voted strong for another term as President of Local 281 at Webster Cigar here. Int. Rep. Chapin K. Armstrong swore in all the officers, as follows; Martha Drapinski, Pres.; Kathryn Bennett, Vice-Pres. and Press Agent; Anna Karabinas, Rec. Secy.; Eleanor Cynowa, Treas.; Sally Detmer, Fin. Secy.; and Sophie Hallman, Chief Steward.

The members all hope to see Sister Clara Lemanski, our former Fin. Secy., return back to work soon. She took a six months' leave of absence and her duties have been taken over by Sister Cynowa, who will do just as grand a job as Sister Lemanski did in the past.

The Local extends its deepest sympathy to Mary Kliszcz of the stripping Dept. in the loss of her son, Joseph, who was killed in action at Guadalcanal. Sister Kliszcz received the Purple Heart.

We were all pleased with Bro. Armstrong who will start negotiations soon and feel he will do a good job for us, and with Sister Drapinski hope for a bigger and better year than before.

*By Kathryn Bennett, Press Agent*

## . . . AND AMERICAN TOBACCO CELEBRATES CIO VICTORY

Philadelphia, Pa.—At the pre-election rally on April 25, in front of the American Tobacco plant, UCAPAWA Stewards from tobacco plants in the area helped to convince American girls to join the Union.

Top picture: Steward Anna Magee, of Siegel Cigar, signs up one worker. Second picture: Stewards Antoinette Sharp (left) and Cora Green (center) watch as another girl signs a UCAPAWA application. Bottom picture: Some of the victorious American Tobacco members take time off at the Victory Rally, after the elections, to assemble prize-drawing tickets. They are (left to right, standing) Elinor Porter, George Powell, Edith Delavecchi, Gloria Laravoli, Josephine Peurifoy, Mary Fisher, Eloise Roberson, Gladys Preston, Mary Swinton, Elizabeth Fuhs. (Left to right, seated) Rose Marini, Jennie Picconi, Peggy Kendig.

# Toledano Leads Move at ILO To Oust Argentina

*By Gladys Chasins, Allied Labor News Staff Writer*

**Philadelphia, Pa.** (FP) — Exclusion of the Argentina delegates from sessions of the workers' section at the Intl. Labor Organization conference here was hailed April 24 by Pres. Vicente Lombardo Todedano of the Confederation of as "a demonstration to the people of Argentina and of all Latin America that they have genuine support from the workers of other countries."

Taken after two days of heated debate, the action was unprecedented in ILO history. In the past delegates have been barred only on technical and not on political grounds. Toledano, who proposed the exclusion resolution on behalf of the entire Latin American delegation, charged that Argentine labor is controlled by the fascist government of that country.

Fourteen labor delegates, including seven Europeans as well as the seven Latin American representatives, supported the Toledano motion, while three opposition votes were cast.

### BLOW TO HITLER

Toledano stressed the importance of the vote in relation to the United Nations war effort, declaring that "Hitler has opened a front against the democracies in the western hemisphere — a political and not a military front, and therefore more dangerous and more difficult to combat. Argentina represents a menace to the unity and stability of the entire hemisphere."

"If a Nazi invasion had taken place in Argentina," he continued, "the people of that country would have united to fight against it. But a political front, such as has been opened, allows the fascists to carry on their work not only inside that country, but to project it to the other countries of Latin America, thus making the Argentine regime a focal point of disturbance for all the Americas."

## AREA Committees AT WORK

### Indiana

Discussion on War Labor Board cases and political action were the highlights of the meeting of the Indiana State Organizing Committee held on April 23 in Indianapolis.

The necessity for an additional 10c per month assessment for the locals was also thoroughly discussed. Int. Vice-Pres. Robert Clark, who chaired the meeting, described the organizing drive now on in the State and introduced the new Field Organizer, Mrs. Alice Powell. Citing the large number of potential UCAPAWA members in Indiana, Clark urged that the locals accept the additional per capita levy. Each local will be visited individually on this subject, since all were not present at the meeting.

### Illinois

A motion of the Illinois Organizing Committee endorsing Franklin D. Roosevelt for a fourth term was passed by an overwhelming majority of the delegates at their meeting on April 23 in Blue Island. Delegates from Locals 17, 18, 47 and 194 actively participated in the discussion on the motion which passed by a 16 to 4 vote.

Pointing out the non-partisan nature of the CIO's political activity and the necessity of supporting Roosevelt's program, W. H. Wheeler, Pres. Local 18, said: "I voted Republican every time . . . This time I am going to change. You know, a fellow can go wrong a long time and then he can see the light. I know that under Pres. Roosevelt labor has made more gains than it has ever made before."

"I have three boys in the Army," said Enoch Royalty, another Local 18 delegate, "and I say we should vote for Roosevelt."

The dissenting votes came from Local 47, but three of that Local's delegates voted in favor of the motion. Delegates from Local 13 abstained from voting.

A telegram to Senators Lucas and Brooks, urging their full support for the Anti-Poll Tax bill, was sent in the names of all the delegates.

Further discussion involved the progress of extended organizational work by Local 17 in Rochelle. Latin American Workers (CTAL)

## Poll Tax Fight Is On!

*(Continued from Page 1)*

IF TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR CLOTURE IS NOT ATTAINED THEN PLAN IS TO SHELVE THE BILL. WIRE YOUR SENATORS IMMEDIATELY AND CONTACT ALL LOCALS AND OFFICERS TO DO LIKEWISE, TO VOTE FOR CLOTURE AND IF NECESSARY TO WORK FOR A SECOND CLOTURE VOTE. ANOTHER OPPORUNITY TO GET THIS BILL PASSED WILL NOT PRESENT ITSELF FOR A LONG TIME.

## 2 Quaker Locals Win Security

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**—Standard voluntary maintenance of membership, dues checkoff and night shift bonus were won by Local 110 at the Quaker Oats plant here when the Regional War Labor Board ordered the Company to include these provisions in the contract. Night shift bonuses are 3 cents for the second shift and 5 cents for the third shift.

Local 125 in St. Joseph, Mo., won the same provisions, as reported in last issue of the News.

## Locals Get In The Groove On Registration

UCAPAWA members are registering to vote, and in good numbers. Reports on register-to-vote plans coming in from Winston-Salem, N. C., from Local 80 in Camden, N. J., news from the West Coast on registration in the California and Arizona packing sheds and in the canneries, preparation for register-to-vote campaigns in Memphis, Tenn., and elsewhere.

BUT—and this is a "but" which must bring every local up sharp: Only one local—Local 186—has reported to the National office that on such-and-such-a-date, the completed cards of the members showed that out of a total of so many members (giving exact number) so-and-so-many (giving EXACT number) are registered, and so-and-so-many (giving EXACT number) are not registered.

This careful counting is the very groundwork of an effective down-to-earth register-to-vote campaign —and registration is the groundwork for an effective vote in November.

No local ever reported in an organizing drive that "a good many" are signed up for UCAPAWA. We know exactly how many are CIO, and work methodically to convince the rest. So in political action, the registration drive must be just that methodical, careful, and down-to-earth.

**Leading in First Lap of Campaign**

## Local 186 Gets Complete Data On Registration

**Philadelphia, Pa.**—Announcing on May 8 that 267 of their members are registered, while 360 are not registered to vote, Local 186 here is the first UCAPAWA local to report completion of its card records in the register-to-vote drive.

Each card shows the name, address, and ward and whether or not the member is registered, together with information on the voting status of members of the family. These cards will now be put into the hands of the Shop Stewards of the nine shops under contract, according to Carmen Parente, Int. Rep. and Bus. Agent of the Local, and the drive for full registration will be on. A number of those not registered will undoubtedly turn out to be below the voting age, Parente said.

# Our War Labor Board Cases

*The table below summarizes the current War Labor Board cases of which the International Office has a record, as of May 4. If your case is not on this list, the reason is that your local has not reported it to the International Office.*

## Dispute Cases

### Pending in Washington

| Name | Local | Date Certified |
|---|---|---|
| Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Memphis, Tenn. | 19 | Nov. 6, 1943 |
| Consolidated Cigar Corp., Lancaster, Pa. | 638 | Sept. 1, 1943 |
| Consumers Lumber & Veneer Co., Apopka, Fla. | 4 | Feb. 7, 1944 |
| Fosgate Co., Orlando, Fla. | 4 | |
| Four Peanut Co.'s (American, Lummis, Parker, Pond), Suffolk, Va. | 26 | Aug. 7, 1943 |
| Huron Milling Co., Harbor Beach, Mich. | 20 | Nov. 13, 1943 |
| Leland Cotton Oil Co., Leland, Miss. | 189 | Oct. 4, 1943 |
| Pretlow Peanut Co., Franklin, Va. | 511 | Apr. 1, 1943 |
| Quaker Oats Co., Akron, Ohio | 120 | Sept. 17, 1943 |

### Pending in Regional Offices

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alaska Salmon Industry, Seattle, Wash. | 7 | Apr. 19, 1944 |
| Assoc. of Italian Cigar Mfrs., Inc., New York City | 647 | Apr. 28, 1944 |
| Bay Cooperative Canneries, Inc., Essexville, Mich. | 82 | Feb. 5, 1944 |
| Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., N. Little Rock, Ark | 98 | Jan. 19, 1944 |
| California Packing Corp. (Cannery Workers only), DeKalb & Rochelle, Ill. | 17 & 18 | Dec. 16 1943 |
| Campbell Soup Co., Camden, N. J. | 80 | Apr. 20, 1944 |
| Campbell Soup Co., Chicago, Ill. | 194 | Apr. 20, 1944 |
| Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert, Lima, Van Wert, Findlay and St. Mary's, Ohio; Detroit, Mich. | 58, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 | Oct. 30, 1943 |
| Export Leaf, Richmond, Va. | 350 | Sept. 4, 1943 |
| Frazier Packing Corp., Elwood, Ind. | 32 | Aug. 18, 1943 |
| Grower-Shippers, Central Calif. | 78 | April 5, 1944 |
| Grower-Shippers, Phoenix, Ariz. | 78 | Apr. 10, 1944 |
| Hopkinsville Milling Co., Hopkinsville, Ky. | 195 | Feb. 9, 1944 |
| Land O'Lakes Creameries, Inc., Rush City, Minn. | 49 | June 15, 1943 |
| Lutheran Cemetery, Maspeth, L.I., N.Y. | 293 | May 19, 1943 |
| Marshall Canning Co., Marshalltown, Iowa. | 155 | June 24, 1943 |

### Pending in Regional Offices *(Continued)*

| Name | Local | Date Certified |
|---|---|---|
| National Starch Co., Indianapolis, Ind. | 92 | Nov. 16, 1943 |
| Quaker Oats Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa | 110 | Dec. 10, 1943 |
| R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, N. C. | TWOC | Apr. 26, 1944 |
| San Francisco Sardine Ass'n, San Francisco, Calif | 7 | Sept. 4, 1943 |
| Swift & Co., La Crosse, Wis. | 448 | Aug. 31, 1943 |
| F. B. Vahlsing, Inc., Weslaco, Texas | 35 | Mar. 25, 1944 |

## Voluntary Wage Cases

### Pending in Washington

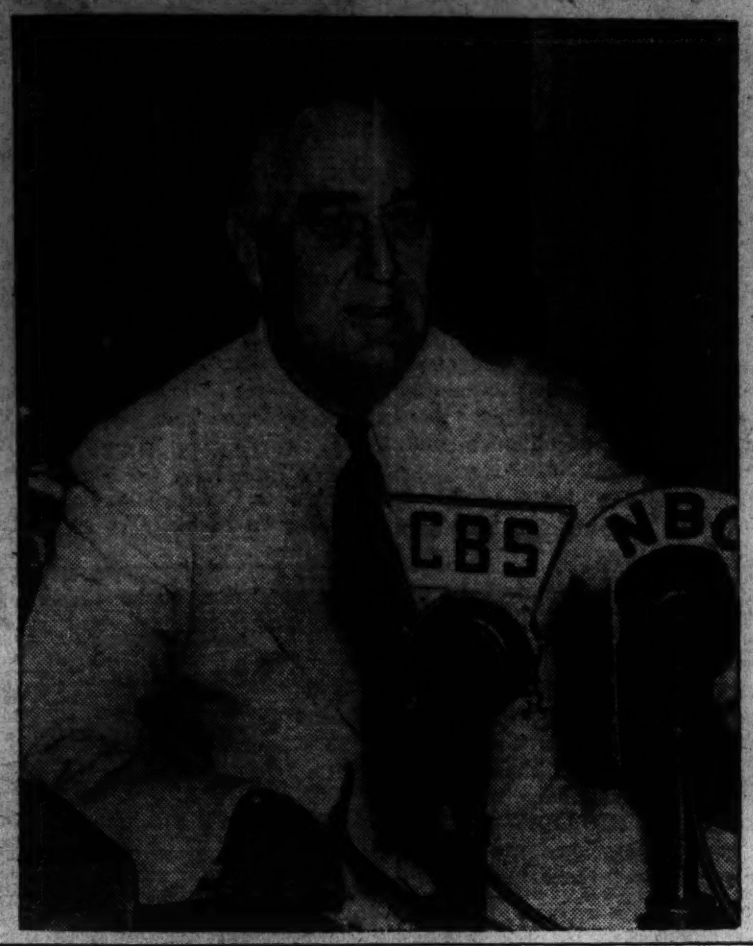
| Name | Local |
|---|---|
| Larus & Bros. Co., Richmond, Va. | 577 |

### Pending in Regional Offices

| | |
|---|---|
| American Tobacco Co., Charleston, S. C. | TWOC |
| Brumder Estates, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis. | 107 |
| Crystal Canning Co., Elberta, Mich. | 65 |
| Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert, Lima, Van Wert, Findlay, St. Mary's, Ohio; Detroit, Mich. | 58, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 |
| Dow Cheese Co., Fond Du Lac, Wis. | 341 |
| Elberta Canning Co., Elberta, Mich. | 65 |
| J. W. Eshelman & Sons Feed Co., York, Pa. | 101 |
| Gulf Atlanta Compress, Memphis, Tenn. | 19 |
| Happy Mills, Memphis, Tenn. | 19 |
| Harbauer Co., Toledo, Ohio | 81 |
| Helena Compress Co., Helena, Ark. | 232 |
| Jiffy Mfg. Co., Hillside, N. J. | 154 |
| Kraft Cheese, Summitville, Ind. | 48 |
| Loyalty Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis. | 107 |
| Morgan Canning Co., Traverse City, Mich. | 178 |
| Augustus Pollack, Wheeling, W. Va. | 200 |
| Max Schwarz, New York City | 273 |
| Swift's Fertilizer, Harvey, La. | 91 |
| Swift's Refinery, Harvey, La | 309 |
| Wilson & Toomer, Jacksonville, Fla. | 4-A |

# Strong FDR Tide Sets In

**MESSAGES URGING ROOSEVELT to run for a fourth term are flooding the White House from local, State and international union groups, coming from every branch of the union movement, from North, South, East and West. Only holdouts appear to be a few top officials of the reactionary wing of the AFL headed by Big Bill Hutcherson of the carpenters, and of course John L. Lewis, whose venom against Roosevelt gets more vicious every day. How the carpenters feel about Hutcherson's politics was demonstrated when the largest local of his union came out for a fourth term. Reports from mining areas indicate that Roosevelt is also the miners' choice. UCAPAWA locals are in the thick of the fourth term movement. Local 80 in Camden, N.J., and Local 297 in Toledo, Ohio, are the most recent locals which have reported back-FDR resolutions passed by the membership.**




## CIO Political Action Okayed Again By U.S.

Washington, D. C.—New clearance on the legality of CIO political action—in case anybody had any doubts left—came May 2 in a report from the U. S. Justice Dept. to the Senate Committee on Campaign Practices. The Senate adopted the report.

### NO VIOLATIONS

According to the latest bill of health, the CIO Political Action Committee is guiltless of violating either the Hatch Act, the Corrupt Practices or the Smith-Connally Act. The new report backs up earlier findings of the Justice Dept. resulting from a request by Rep. Howard Smith (polltaxer of Virginia) to look into the PAC.

### DIES UNHAPPY

This double check by the Justice Dept., whose FBI investigation received the utmost cooperation from the CIO, did not satisfy Rep. Martin ("Call 'Em Red") Dies, who announced that he would subpoena the PAC's records in an effort to find something wrong with workers taking an interest in politics.

## Aaron, Lucky Stiff, Rode On His Ass—

Schenectady, N. Y. (FP)—War worker victims of the snarled-up transit situation here are still laughing at this exchange of letters, taken directly from the files of the Schenectady Railway Co. and printed in Jack Brady's column, Between The Editions, in the Gloversville Morning Herald. The letters tell the story:

Gentlemen: I have been riding on your busses for the past 15 months and the service seems to be getting worse every day. I think the transportation you offer is worse than that enjoyed by the people 1,000 years ago.

Yours very truly,
Henry Blank
(real name withheld)

The company replied: We received your letter of the 1st and believe that you are somewhat confused in your history. The only transportation 1,000 years ago was on foot.

Reply from the disgruntled rider: I am in receipt of your letter of the 18th and think you are the ones confused in your history. If you read the Bible, Book of David, ninth verse, you will find that Aaron rode into town on his ass and that, gentlemen, is something that I haven't been able to do on your busses for the past six or seven months.

LABOR IN POLITICS

## Key Pro-Roosevelt Men Win Primary Elections

**LABOR and the Roosevelt Administration won three resounding victories when Democratic primary election returns from Florida and Alabama guaranteed the return to the Senate of two FDR-stalwarts and the elimination from the House of Representatives of one of the worst labor-baiters in Congress.**

Winning out over anti-Administration, anti-labor and anti-Negro opponents were Senators Claude Pepper of Florida and Lister Hill of Alabama. In the latter State voters turned a big thumbs down on Rep. Joseph Starnes, a leading member of the Dies Committee who had dedicated his career to sniping at FDR and at trade unions. Nomination in these States virtually assures election.

### Good Republican Wins

Other hopeful events in recent primaries included nomination of Senator Chan Gurney in the Republican primary in South Dakota and partial success of Luther Patrick in the Democratic primary in Alabama.

Sen. Chan Gurney successfully defended his record of supporting Roosevelt's war policies, in spite of tough opposition from his Roosevelt-hating opponent. In the Birmingham, Ala., district Rep. John P. Newsome, an anti-labor Democrat, was forced into a runoff on May 30 by former Rep. Luther Patrick, a pro-labor, pro-Roosevelt liberal.

### CIO Worked Hard

An example of how CIO can mobilize its forces in the political field comes from Jefferson County, Ala., where CIO, AFL and United Mine Workers went all-out for Hill. Thirty local union political action committees were set up in the county urging members to pay their poll taxes and register to vote," reports Chairman J. P. Mooney of the Jefferson County CIO Political Action Committee. "Slates of candidates endorsed by the CIO were given wide distribution and voting records of candidates were compiled.

"Volunteers canvassed neighborhoods to make sure all went to the polls. Members of the CIO committee were certified by the Hill campaign committee as watchers at the polls."

# Monky Ward Spearheads Attack On War Program

**Chicago, Ill.—By defying the orderly processes of Federal law, Sewell Avery, Chairman of Montgomery Ward here declared open war against President Roosevelt and the unions at a time when the majority of the American people are struggling for unity against fascism.**

Matters came to a head when Avery refused to obey a War Labor Board order to extend the life of the union contract until an NLRB election could be held to determine whether the union still represents a majority of the employees, making it necessary for the government to take temporary control of the big mail order house in order to prevent further disruption of the war effort.

Patriotism of the workers, in contrast to the Company, was brought into sharp focus on April 25 when the workers obeyed the Roosevelt order to go back to work. But the section of the Presidential order which required Ward's to carry out the WLB directive was defied by Avery.

Reactionary Congressmen and newspaper writers who never miss a cue to scream to high heaven over even the tiniest labor strike, came loudly to the support of Avery, and by so doing indicated that the Avery "strike" spearheads a concerted attack on the Administration. Here are some of the facts which these gentlemen neglect to mention:

### ANTI-LABOR CORPORATION

The United Mail Order, Warehouse and Retail Employes (CIO) which finally won a contract two years ago covering some 7,000 workers in the Chicago warehouse, mail order and retail store of Monky Ward is battling for its life in an atmosphere of threats, intimidations and firings by Ward bosses, which have gone on for several years. With the victory of the CIO in the NLRB election on May 9, Ward still persist in loud anti-union arguments.

Ward's contention, parrotted by the anti-Roosevelt press and in the halls of Congress, that Ward's business does not affect the war is a phony from the word go.

- Ward has had $100,000,000 worth of Federal government orders.
- Ward has 30,000,00 customers.
- Ward's has filed 30,000 applications for WPB priorities.
- Ward's has contracts for $181,556 for agricultural equipment to Great Britain under lend-lease and $1,051,126 for shoes for distribution in liberated territories.

Avery's pious alibi that Ward's is quite remote from the war effort—somehow like a modest corner store selling pop to kids, he would have us believe—is further exploded when it comes out that the Hummer Mfg. Co., a Ward subsidiary producing gun mounts and other military goods, has refused to recognize a WLB order issued last August; and the U. S. Gypsum Co., manufacturer of metal lathes, and of which Avery also is chairman, has refused to comply with a WLB order issued in June, 1943.

### LIES ABOUT CLOSED SHOP

Equally phony is the outcry that Ward's is fighting government establishment of the closed shop. This is a hoary, shop-worn misrepresentation of those who are trying to wipe out the War Labor Board. Maintenance of membership, the compromise form of union security used by the Board in this war period, is not a closed shop—and Avery and his buddies, such as columnist David Lawrence, well know that they lie when, they say that Ward's is fighting against the closed shop.

Truth is, Ward's, a powerful corporation, is leading an attack on the government. In wartime, that is close to treason.

## DISRUPTIONIST TAKES A RIDE

Sewell Avery, Head of Montgomery Ward, by opposing the government, forced U. S. soldiers to remove him from the plant where he was obstructing the war effort by defying Federal orders. UCAPAWA locals which have reported sending messages of support to Pres. Roosevelt and urged their Senators likewise to back our Commander-in-Chief are: Local 80, Camden, N. J.; Local 19, Memphis, Tenn.; Local 32, Elwood, Ind.; Local 638, Lancaster, Pa.; food and tobacco workers in New Orleans, La.; and the membership in central Florida.

## Unions Act To Stop Spread Of Ward Disruption

New York City—Flat announcements by several companies that they will not obey War Labor Board orders indicate that the pattern of defiance of the Federal government set by Sewell Avery in the Montgomery Ward case may be adopted by the reactionary wing of American business as the 1944 formula for smashing labor unions, according to Federated Press.

### CIO SERVES NOTICE

In New York, heart of the nation's high finance, the CIO Council executive board meeting in special session May 2 served notice on all New York employers that "any attempt at extension into any industry in this city of the Montgomery Ward formula for disruption of wartime morale and orderly relations will be fought vigorously and effectively by the whole of the CIO's 300 unions and 600,000 members in this city."

**CIO unions already facing employer revolts against the government have warned their members against injuring our war effort and playing into the reactionaries' hands by being provoked into strikes. Employer defiance of the War Labor Board is already faced in New York by the fur, electrical and office workers' unions.**

### U. S. STEEL PRAISES AVERY

Other indications of support of the Avery formula in certain big business circles include the motion adopted at the annual stockholders meeting of the powerful U. S. Steel Corp., which according to Federated Press, went on record as "proud to number among our directors Sewell L. Avery." U. S. Steel reelected Montgomery Ward's disruptionist chairman of its board for a 3-year term.

# UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

## Ken Omura, UCAPAWA Soldier, Died Fighting Japanese Warlords

*By Dyke Miyagawa, Former Executive Board Member, Local 7*

SERGEANT KEN OMURA, a member of Salmon Canning Local 7, was the first Japanese-American in United States uniform to die fighting the enemy in the South Pacific.

Relatives living in Des Moines, Iowa, were recently informed by the war Department that Sgt. Omura had drowned last month in the waters surrounding New Guinea while serving with an Intelligence unit.

Only two days before the War Department's announcement came in a terse telegram, a cousin in Des Moines had received a V-mail letter from Omura himself. The letter said:

"I'm enjoying this life. Undoubtedly I will be having a lot of fun and excitement. The Japs are definitely on the run. It may be sooner than we anticipated before this whole mess is cleaned up. I may be seeing you before long. . ."

OMURA had been drafted into the artillery before Pearl Harbor. After ecember 7, 1941, he volunteered for intelligence training and duty, knowing his knowledge of the Japanese language would be useful in the Pacific war against Hirohito and Tojo. After graduating from the Military Intelligence School at Camp Savage, Minn., he was sent into the South Pacific in the Fall of 1942.

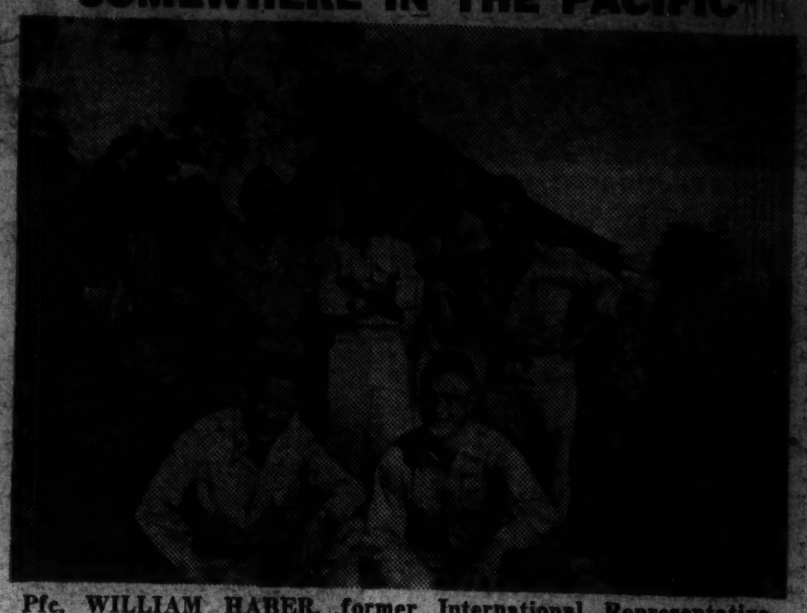
Friends of Omura, who paraded in picket lines with him on the Seattle waterfront in the early days of Local 7 history, recalled that he had been one of the first Japanese-Americans to sign a CIO card when organization of the Alaska salmon industry got under way. Only in his mid-twenties when he died a soldier's death, he had always been among the most militant fighters against Japanese militarism and everything that stood in the way of unionism and democracy.

In his Alaska cannery days, Omura was a stalwart member of the Union Bay crew.

SERGEANT OMURA was one of a dozen or more Japanese-Americans formerly active in UCAPAWA on the Pacific Coast who are now serving with U. S. Intelligence units in the South Pacific. Sergeants Karl Yoneda and Taro "Texas" Tsukahara, one-time organizers for UCAPAWA's San Francisco cannery local, are among those now "somewhere in the Pacific."

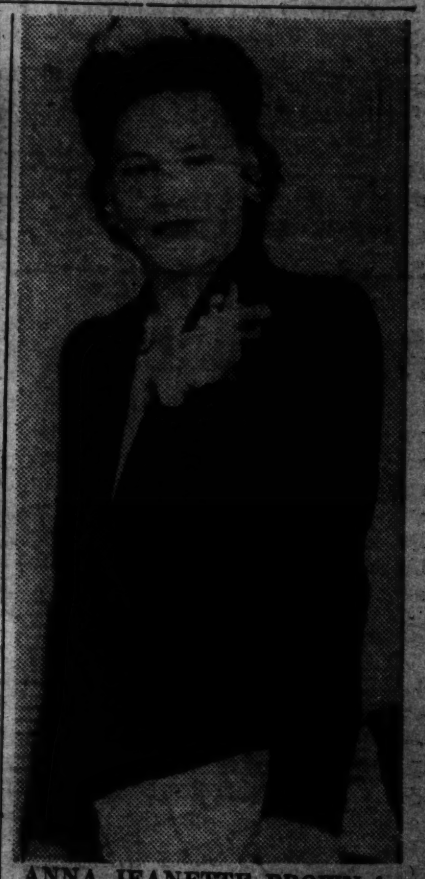
AN estimated one hundred Japanese-American members of Local 7, who had been sent to relocation camps following the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, volunteered for Army combat training last Spring. They were trained as part of a special Japanese-American fighting unit at Camp Shelby, Miss., and are believed to have been sent overseas recently to join the American invasion that will storm Hitler's western defenses on D-day.

## "SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC"



Pfc. WILLIAM HABER, former International Representative, poses (standing, far right) with his "local work gang" at their post on a Pacific isle. It feels good, reports Brother Haber, to be getting "neighborly" with the "sons of heaven," and morale among the soldiers is high.

S/Sgt. HENRY SIMPKINS, son of UCAPAWA member Catherine Simpkins of Winston Leaf in Winston-Salem, N.C., has been serving in the Army for 3 years. He is now stationed in England.



ANNA JEANETTE BROWN is not only Asst. Secy. of Local 19, but is also doing a fine job as Exec. Secy. for the Negro CIO Servicemen's Club, according to Press Agent Mildred Cunningham. Her duties in the Servicemen's Club consist of carrying on a campaign to raise funds for the Club; arranging programs; securing hostesses, refreshments, etc.—which keeps her quite busy outside of her duties to Local 19. Sister Brown came to work for Local 19 in the latter part of January and found her duties quite a task, as the records were not up-to-date. She worked day and night for weeks, very devotedly, and straightened them out. In short, says Sister Cunningham, Local 19 feels very proud to have her.

## Rep. Rankin Tries To Chisel Down GI Bill

**Washington, D. C.**—Rep. Rankin, the Mississippi poll-taxer, is again on the warpath against servicemen's rights. He is trying to chisel down veterans' aid as called for in the GI Bill (S 1767) which passed the Senate recently and is now before the House of Representatives.

The GI Bill, which provides for unemployment compensation for veterans until they are found jobs, has the endorsement of the CIO, 1,250,000 members of which are in the armed forces. As passed by the Senate with CIO support a month ago, the GI Bill provides up to 52 weeks unemployment benefits, plus allowances for dependents with the total going up to $25 a week.

This is what Rankin doesn't like; in fact, he's said publicly that benefits at $25 a week would "encourage idleness." So now Rankin's newest "compromise," reported set for early House action, cuts this in half to 26 weeks, cuts off the dependents' allowances and cuts the payment to a flat $20 a week.

### GROSS INSULT

This plan, the CIO said this week in a letter from Pres. Murray to all Congressmen, is "a gross insult to our servicemen, and certainly to act in that spirit would be unworthy of Congress."

The Rankin "compromise" means more than just a cut in the amount a veteran can count on from the GI Bill in case he's unemployed, since the flat $20 a week would be below the amount the veteran would be entitled to under the present social security system in the larger and more industrial States. Rankin's proposal would not only be a raw deal for service men, but would also undermine present social security standards.

This anti-veteran scheme can be stopped by pressure on Congressmen to ignore downward revisions and pass the original S 1767 as quickly as possible.

## Hear Ye! Union Contract Provides GI Bonus

*By Dan Smith, Press Agent*

**Toledo, Ohio**—In Local 297's contract with the Woolson Spice Co., we have a provision guaranteeing full pay for all members in the armed forces from the time they enter the service.

In other words, the Company pays these men a bonus each month, equivalent to the difference between their regular pay when they entered the service and that which Uncle Sam pays them.

## UCAPAWA MIKE GIVES JOHNNY

## The Lowdown on Labor

DEAR CORPORAL JOHNNY:

I have just been reading about the opening of the Steelworkers Convention and thought you would like to hear about it. There was a big service flag hanging at the back of the stage showing 201,605 members of that Union in the Armed Forces.

This Convention represents those boys in the Army camps and those fighting at the four corners of the earth just as much as those still working in the steel mills. The steel union of almost 1,000,000 members is one of our biggest CIO unions and it is Phil Murray's union. He is head of the Steelworkers, and from that position he was elected President of the CIO when John L. Lewis went sour and we had to get rid of him back in 1941.

Both President Roosevelt and General Eisenhower sent warm greetings to the Steelworkers. President Roosevelt told the 2,300 delegates assembled there:

**"It is a source of satisfaction to the nation that the work performed by American wage earners in the manufacture and delivery of munitions and implements of war is having a vital effect on every sector of the far-flung battlefront."**

General Eisenhower said: "Rest assured that all of us will enter the battles ahead full of trust and confidence in the weapons that have been forged by American workers and we will look forward to the days when the same workers will again forge the tools of peace."

As members of the CIO I think we can be proud of these messages. I know UCAPAWA members in the food and tobacco factories have stayed at work even when it was very difficult and we were so mad we wanted to strike. So we know that we have earned this praise and confidence from our Commander-in-Chief and from General Eisenhower. We know what Phil Murray means when he says that the primary duty of labor is the winning of the war, and that we keep our no-strike pledge even if some employers try to provoke us into strikes.

Phil Murray said that "the overwhelming majority of the people of this Nation, regardless of political affiliation, demand re-election of President Roosevelt." Murray put it this way:

**"Today our nation is again passing through another major crisis, and with it all of the universe. Never has there been a time in our national history when the people needed leadership and unity as they do today. The enemies of the common man seek the complete overthrow of democracy and with it the freedom of the people. Millions of our young men and women are today in global hell holes fighting and dying for our right to enjoy the blessings that God, in His wisdom, decreed human beings should enjoy . . .**

**"Our Commander - in - Chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is the man who, through his policies and action, has demonstrated the will, courage and statesmanship to forge the unshakable unity among the peace-loving common people for victory."**

We will be backing you up with renewed determination, Johnny, when the invasion opens. Good luck, and hope to see you back home soon.

Fraternally,

UCAPAWA Mike

## LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT

Nat'l Maritime Union (CIO) members turn over to Maj. Gen. Edwin Watson of the White House Secretariat 400 letters from the crew of the SS John Ericsson, now on transport duty, asking Pres. Roosevelt to run for a fourth term. The letters were written following a survey by the seamen of troops on board the ship.

## Ohio Labor Unity Wins Soldier Ballot

**Columbus, Ohio**—Ohio labor unity resulted in the enactment of a satisfactory State soldiers vote bill.

The State legislature, in completing its vote bill, included five provisions submitted by the Ohio Joint Labor Legislative Committee, representing an estimated one million CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhood, United Mine Workers and other labor groups.

Jack Kroll, CIO Political Action Committee regional director, commenting on labor's part in obtaining enactment of these provisions, said:

"This proves beyond a doubt what labor can do with united political action. While a federal ballot would have been tops, the action obtained in Columbus was the next best thing."

CLIP OUT THIS PAGE and mail it to a man or woman in the service. Servicemen: If you are not getting your Union paper, send your address to UCAPAWA NEWS, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa.